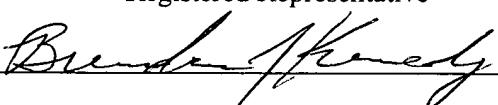


## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to provide a clearer statement of the invention recited in the pending claims, and to add claims to describe subject matter that applicant has a right to claim. The specification is revised to provide an appropriate description of the drawings. No new matter is added.

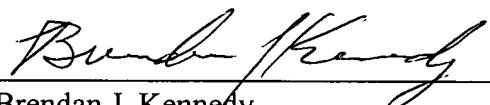
Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present amendment prior to consideration on the merits. Early and favorable action on the application is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on August 9, 2004:

Brendan J. Kennedy  
Name of applicant, assignee or  
Registered Representative  
  
Signature  
August 9, 2004  
Date of Signature

BJK:ck:fs

Respectfully submitted,

  
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